

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

a plurality of filaments for holding an object;

a hollow section, through which a first end of each of the plurality of filaments passes, the hollow section including a fixing section for fixing a second end of each of the plurality of filaments;

wherein the hollow section comprises a first member through which one end of each of the plurality filaments passes, the hollow section comprises a second member engaged with the first member, the fixing section includes a plurality of grooves formed on an engagement surface at which the first member and the second member engage, and an elongated direction of the plurality of grooves is slanted with respect to an extending direction of the first member or an elongated direction of the second member.

23-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

at least one filament provided in a distal end portion of the instrument for holding an object; and

a fixing member provided in the distal end portion of the instrument for at least fixing one end of the at least one filament to the instrument, the fixing member having an accommodation part for accommodating and fixing the one end of the at least one filament in a predetermined position and direction,

wherein the accommodation part is slanted in respect to the longitudinal direction of the instrument.

32-35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

a sheath;

at least one filament provided in a distal end portion of the sheath for holding an object;

a fixing member provided in the distal end portion of the sheath for fixing one end of the at least one filament to the instrument;

wherein at least one of the sheath and the fixing member has a groove on its surface, the groove is provided in a predetermined position and direction for accommodating and fixing the one end of the at least one filament in the predetermined position and direction regulated by the groove.

37. (New) The medical retrieval instrument according to claim 36, wherein an adhesive is applied in the groove for fixing the at least one filament to the instrument.

38. (New) A medical retrieval instrument comprising:

a sheath;

at least one filament provided in a distal end portion of the sheath for holding an object;

a fixing member provided in the distal end portion of the sheath for fixing one end of the at least one filament to the instrument;

wherein at least one of the sheath and the fixing member has a hole, the hole is provided in a predetermined position and direction for accommodating and fixing the one end of the at least one filament in the predetermined position and direction regulated by the hole.

39. (New) The medical retrieval instrument according to claim 38, wherein an adhesive is applied in the hole for fixing the at least one filament to the instrument.